

COBRA

Legend of Mandrill

THE SPACE PIRATE



BUICHI TERASAWA

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vol.3

Mandrad

Gold and Diamonds

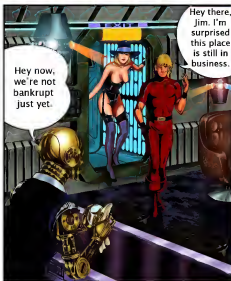
Wandering Beauties

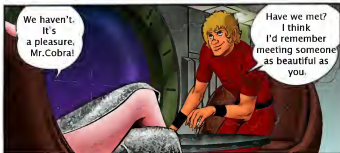
Mandrad



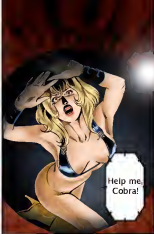














FROAR



This is Code-name "Eyes," who can tell the color of a single strand of hair in pitch darkness.



Let me introduce you to the other three crew members.



This is "Ears." He wouldn't miss a mosquito's buzzing from a kilometer away.



And this is "Nose." His sense of smell is stronger than a dog's.

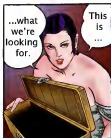


Hahaha... I've gathered these members to help me find... what I'm looking for. You are simply one of these members.



These guys are really something. Does this make me the "Mouth"?







The Mandrad grows these teeth as a sapling. Unfortunately, however...




...the Mandrad can only produce seeds when it's fully matured...! And to fully mature, it takes a hundred years!



Then I thought,
what if someone
were to find a
mature tree? If one
could find the
seeds to grow the
saplings...



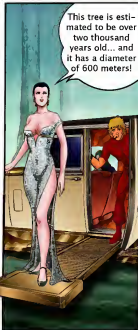
...they would
make a huge
fortune!



Then, one month ago,
my explorer husband
finally found one on
Planet Nasca.
A fully mature
Mandrad!

A comic book illustration featuring a massive, ancient tree with a deeply textured, brown bark. The base of the tree is particularly thick and gnarled, with many roots spreading out over the ground. In the center of the tree's trunk, there is a large, carved or natural face with a wide, open mouth, giving it the appearance of a giant. The tree stands in a misty, green forest with several tall, thin, vertical rock formations or trees in the background. In the foreground, a small, dark-colored car is driving on a road, kicking up a cloud of dust or dirt. A speech bubble with a jagged, star-like border points towards the tree's face.

Look!
There it is,
an adult
Mandrad!









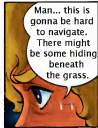






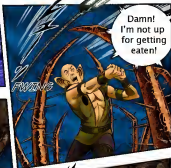














We're gonna
be shish
kebabs!



Heh...



Heh heh
heh...



SLAM

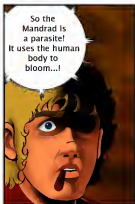




You're too naive... Think about it.





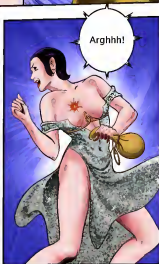


Which means... all
the flowers bloom-
ing here grew from
the bodies of
people who came
looking for the
seeds...











...but
a Mandrad
reproduces
by using
human greed.



Greed brings
people to look for
the Mandrad's
seeds. Then, the
seed leeches on
the human body
and blooms into
a flower.



Before long,
the Mandrad finds
itself in the hands of
another person...
who then goes on to
look for the seed...



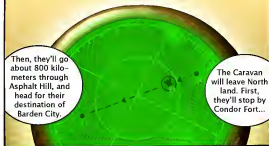
Gold and Diamonds



A floating island in space. On top is a large mosque with a central dome and several minarets. A crescent moon is positioned above the central dome. Below the mosque, on the underside of the island, is a small military base with a vehicle and a small structure. The background is a dark space with a large, glowing orange and yellow planet or nebula on the left.

That's
Planet Dast's
Asphalt Hill!
Buffalo and scorpions
are about the only
things that live
there.

That's the point.
The only security
in the area is the
7th Cavalry Unit at
Condor Fort...
It's going
to be easy.



Then, they'll go about 800 kilometers through Asphalt Hill, and head for their destination of Barden City.

The Caravan will leave North land. First, they'll stop by Condor Fort...



Condor Fort, huh...? Naturally, this means the Cavalry Unit will be escorting them...



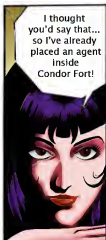
That's the route of the Caravan, which is carrying 500 tons of gold and 2.5 million carats of diamond!



Come on. Even imbeciles can kill as long as they got guns.

Oh dear. A man like Cobra... afraid of the imbeciles in the Cavalry Unit?







The man's name is Mario, the "Puppeteer"!



Mario, the puppeteer...!





There's
one 16mm
machine gun
in the back...
They're pretty
careless.

They're coming...
They're here...
That's the
Caravan carrying
500 tons of gold.



It looks like...
their load really
is 500 tons
of gold.

Woah...
their feet are
sinking into
this patch of
hard earth they
call Asphalt
Hill.



The group's
moving
towards
Condor Fort.



The showdown
will take place
800 kilometers
from the
fort at Asphalt
Hill!



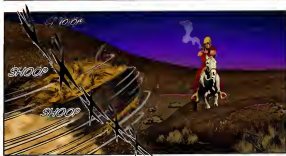
The sun will set
soon...
Guess they're
staying
at the fort for
a night.



Well...
guess I'll take
a break too!
Man,
I could eat!











You are under arrest in accordance with Penal Code 17 Clause 2.



Yeah. Who's gonna eat the buffalo steak?



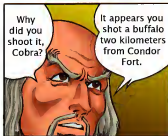
Do you have something to say in your defense?

This is a military-owned area. In other words, hunting is prohibited.

A character with green hair, wearing a brown hat, a brown and blue jacket, and black shorts, is riding a large, silver, mechanical horse. The horse has a long, pointed snout and jointed legs with circular joints. The character is holding a long, thin object, possibly a whip or a sword. The background is a large, full moon in a dark blue sky, with a yellow and blue cloud-like pattern at the bottom.

All right.
All units
return
to the fort!











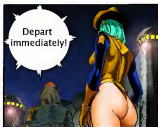
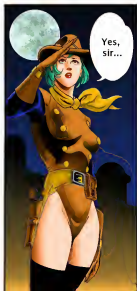






VWEEEN



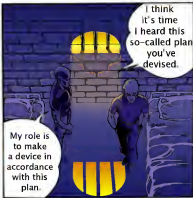




What's the plan, Cobra? If you linger around too long, you'll lose the 500 tons of gold.



Man you're annoying. Shut up and go play with your pet armadillo or something.



I think it's time I heard this so-called plan you've devised.

My role is to make a device in accordance with this plan.

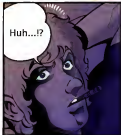


There's no way I'm working with some half-wit who lost all his tools and got thrown in jail!

I'm not joining up with you! You understand? I said I was going to find the finest mechanic to be my accomplice!



Come on, Cobra. What are you try'na say?



Huh...!?



There's no
need to
worry. I have
all the tools
I need right
here.

Heh heh heh...
so that's
how it is.
You doubt
my skill!

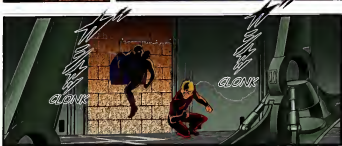


Here!



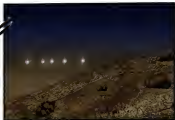
Right
in front
of your eyes.
My tool.

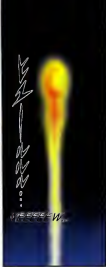


















I get it.
Wheels are
better suited
for level
surfaces.



Legs were
originally de-
veloped so we
could walk
through
mountains
and rough
terrain...

But as the
name Asphalt
Hill suggests,
the ground
on this planet
is mostly
hard and flat.



Man, does
everyone in
these parts
ride on baby
carriages?



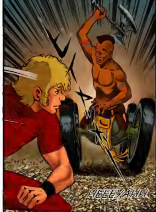
Those are
what they
have in
place of
legs. They
evolved
that way.



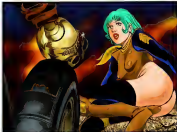
Oh man... at
this rate, the
Caravan's
gonna be
obliterated.









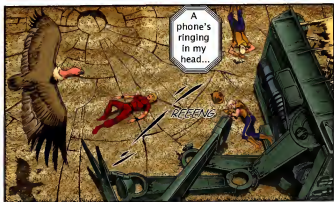




The
phone's
ringing...

REEENG

REEENG



A
phone's
ringing
in my
head...

REEENG



Come on!
Pull yourself
together before
you become
vulture food!



Someone
answer
the god-
damn
phone.

Damn...
my head's
about to
split
open....





Blah, blah Cobra
the pirate! Blah,
blah detailed plan!
You don't got
a plan at all!



What's got
your panties
in a knot?
You hungry
or some-
thing?



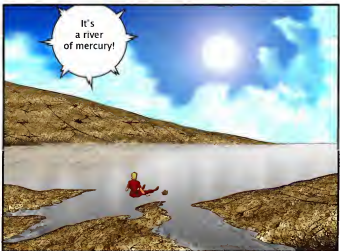
Dammit! If I
knew this was
gonna happen,
I wouldn't have
joined you in
the first place!
What a waste of
time.



Hoof...
it's real
hot out...!











A submarine!?
You got any
idea what
mercury
weighs!?



Look.
Even
guns
float on
mercury.



Is there a problem?
I thought you
said you could
make absolutely
anything.

We may not sink
down completely,
but we'll still be
mostly concealed
under the
mercury.



Heh heh heh.
All right.
I'll show you
my talents as
a top level
professional
mechanic!



And not just
a regular boat,
I want a subma-
rine! We can ap-
proach them
without being
noticed.



Use an anchor
from the wagon,
they're made
of lead.
Lead should
weigh roughly
the same.



You may not realize, but there are supernatural energies around us!



Super-natural energies, huh...!?

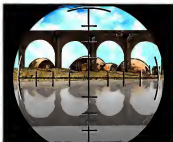
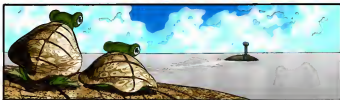


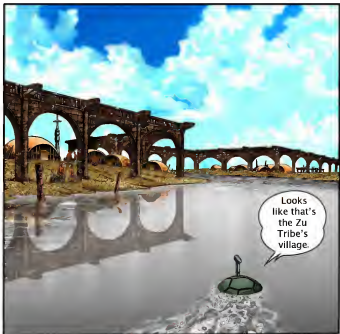




Landmasters
must be facing
tough economic
times, too. That's
enough to make
anyone change
their code of
honor.

...let alone
attack them on
their own soil...!
Nothing like this
has happened
before.

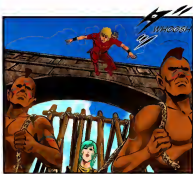
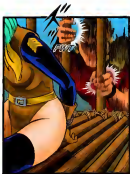












Woah.
Look,
it's the gold!
So this is where
they've been
hiding it.





Kill her!
Kill that girl!

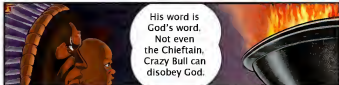


Who is
that?

He's a diviner.
He's believed to
be a messenger
for their guard-
ian deity, Yazpu.



I thought
I commanded
you to leave
no outsiders
alive.



His word is
God's word.
Not even
the Chieftain,
Crazy Bull can
disobey God.



By the law
of our tribe,
we do not
kill
women.



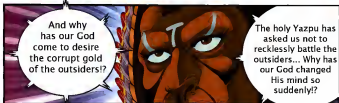
Oh,
Brave Warrior
Crazy Bull.
This is the word
of our God,
Yazpu.



Oh, Great
Messen-
ger
Shishto!

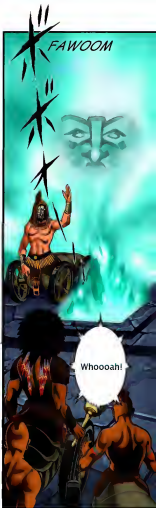


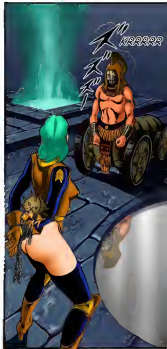
On the night of the full
moon, the holy Yazpu
commanded that we
attack the Caravan and
take their gold...! Yet I do
not understand it...



And why
has our God
come to desire
the corrupt gold
of the outsiders?!

The holy Yazpu has
asked us not to
recklessly battle the
outsiders... Why has
our God changed
His mind so
suddenly!?





Commander
Tauld...



These
Landmaster
"legs" are
well made,
don't you
think?

Heh heh
heh... sur-
prised to
see me,
Lieutenant
Schmidt?



I'm saying
farewell
to this
damn
place.

But not
anymore.
I've ac-
quired a
great for-
tune...



What do you
say, Lieutenant?
Won't you come
with me? I'll
give you a life
of luxury.



Oops, gonna
have to cut
this love
scene short.



But you're the
commander
of Condor
Fort and the
governor!

Hehehe. Yes,
the Governor
of a land
containing
nothing but
buffalo and
Landmasters.





You're quite the villain.



H...
how did you get here?

This explains why you made the Caravan depart ahead of schedule and without the Cavalry Unit escorting them.



You're planning on keeping the gold and diamonds to yourself!



To think you manipulated Landmasters into attacking your own people...



FWEEET



I'm not letting you get in my way...

Or so you think... I risked everything for this plan.



Look, Cobra. He's got hologram projectors installed. This guy's a fraud.



But it's all over for you now.

So you killed the real diviner, huh?





They won't
leave so
much as a
bone on
your body.



They're
ferocious.
And they've
got big
appetites.



How do we
get outta
this one,
Cobra?



We're in a rut.
Do you mind
getting eaten
first?









Wait. We're not gonna leave without the gold and diamonds, are we?

Son of a... Let's cut up these bars and get outta here!



How are we gonna carry the gold out, anyway? With one of the canoes out back?

Maaan... come on! Give it up already!



I'm serious. It's 500 tons of gold! How could we possibly carry that much!? We'll get caught right away!

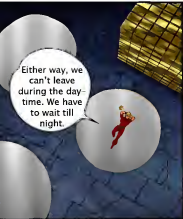
Or do you plan out going out the front to walk through 800 kilometers of Asphalt Hill with all that gold stuffed in your pocket?!



We'll think of a way. Right after a relaxing nap!

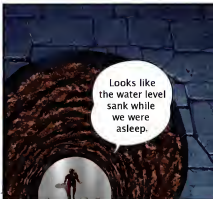


Look, they've got canoes tied up. Looks like they must have used them to transport the gold.





Yawn... that
was some
good shut-
eye. What
time is
it...?





No!
Who would
ever want to
marry you!?

A comic book panel depicting a scene in a dimly lit, stone-walled room. A woman with short, wavy blonde hair, wearing a blue and yellow costume with a cape and thigh-high boots, is crouching on the floor. She is looking up with a surprised expression at a large, muscular leg that dominates the right side of the frame. A hand is visible at the top, holding a small, ornate lantern that casts a warm glow. The background shows stone pillars and a patterned rug.



Hehehe...
you're a
strong-hearted
woman. That's
what I like most
about you.



Heh heh
heh...
What of it?
It's all in
the name
of gold.

I've been working
on this plan
ever since I
became the
commander of
Condor Fort.



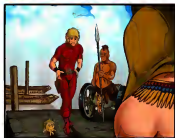
You're evil...! Do you
know what you've
done? To your Cavalry
Unit... your own
people! You used the
Landmasters to have
them killed!



Then I used
the faithful
Landmasters
to attack
the Caravan.

That's right...
I went ahead
of the Caravan and
snuck into
the village...
then I killed their
diviner and took
his place.

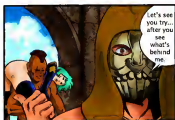






That's what I was gonna say. Oh, should I tell these guys who you really are...?

I should've finished you off.



Let's see you try... after you see what's behind me.



I'll tell him that the "diviner" Shishto is actually an outsider, and he's the commander of Condor Fort. Not even a scalping would be enough justice.

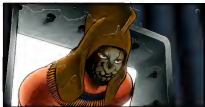


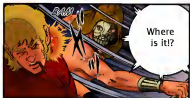
...! Man, you really play it dirty.

Do you still want to tell them?



Heh heh heh... All I have to do is give him the okay and he'll slit her throat.











It's a lot easier that way! The river will carry the gold all the way down-stream.

Damn you! You let the gold float down the river!

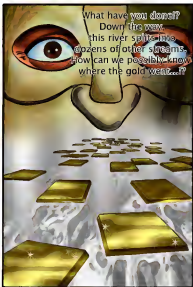


I would hurry before it gets dark.

Look for it. You could use the exercise.



Ugh... You sons of...



What have you done?
Down the river, this river splits into dozens of other streams. How can we possibly know where the gold went...?



Keep these three locked up in the temple!
And block the vent in the back!



Go!
Search all
the streams!



Take
a nap and
wait until
nightfall.
Until it
gets
chilly!

What do
we do
now?

They've
completely
blocked
the vent.



17:00

Until it
gets
chilly
....!?







Huh!?
What's
all this!?

This well works like a thermometer.
As the temperature goes down, so does
the mercury level.

In the heat of the afternoon,
the volume of the mercury
swells up and reaches ground level.
That's why you couldn't see the gold
before.



The gold...!
Th... this
wasn't here
this after-
noon.



Mm...



How's it
look
Mario?
Can you
build it?



To add to the fun,
I flicked a lead
bullet into the
river, making
them think gold
would float too.
They totally fell
for it.



Go ahead
and use
the gold and
diamonds!



Plenty of ma-
terials
right
here.

...except I'm
an engineer,
not a magi-
cian. I need
materials to
build it
with!



Well,
it doesn't
seem too
hard...



2:00

3:00

4:00

























Looks like
they gave up
the chase.



Sure!



I don't want
to go back
to the fort.
Will you take
me with
you?



Let's just cruise
on out. A little
trip on a steam
train can be
nice once in a
while.



But
the train fare
is steep.

After all,
we are on a
gold train fueled
by diamonds!



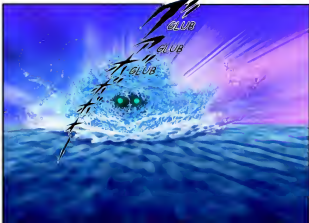


Wandering Beauties





















According to the legend, there are "Wandering Beauties" near Baron Island... The ghosts of girls are said to walk around at the bottom of the sea.

Some time back, fisherman used to go out there to catch shrimp. They would see the ghosts, and become struck with fear and died out there.

Cursed...?

The sea around the island is cursed.

You're not from around here, are ya? So... you have no idea...

Can you take me, then?

Hah! You gotta be kidding! I'm not like the other guys around here. I don't believe in that crap.

So... how about you? You afraid of these ghosts and what not?

Uh huh... so no one's been out there since, huh?

Why not? The fare won't be cheap, though...

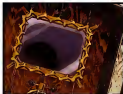
Me?





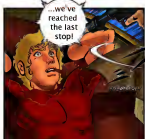


What's this all about? Did he know that something was going to happen to him?



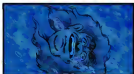


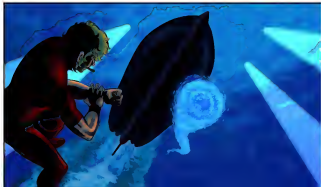
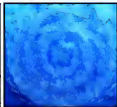


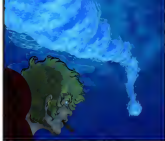












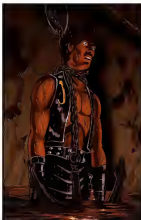






Elise,
untie
the rope
for me.

All right,
looks like
we got
the engine
running.



What's
wrong,
Elise!?





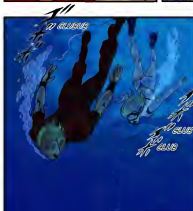
Can you see it? That's Baron Island. Two thousand years ago, the Yid civilization thrived there. They say there's was a temple on the island dedicated to the gods.

That's it, over there... the sea of ghosts that fishermen fear..

There are many legends about this place. Like how priests drowned girls in these waters...











It's all clear now. He had located the treasure!

I can't believe it. These are rings made by the ancient Yid people.



He might have left some kind of clue about the location. Let's look around. There must be a map somewhere.



Phew... I was runnin' out of breath. At least now we have some air.



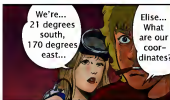
...was when we went skiing in Chamonix.

Do you remember when we raced down that big glacier...?



Man, Cobra. You doin' all right...? The last time we met...











...to
the trea-
sure.



We wait...
he'll take
us...

What are
we gonna
do,
Minos-
sus?



He got
Milo,
too,



There's
nothing that
even remotely
resembles
treasure...



That's strange...
if the coordinates
are correct... it
should be
around here...

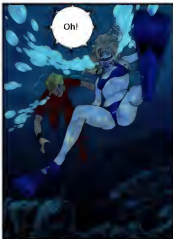
Huh!?
We're...
getting
washed
away.



It's an ocean
current...! I
guess a current
runs through
the bottom of
this sea.



Oh!



Look at that.
We're in
a tunnel
of water.





Guess we're in
a cold current.
It's probably
something like
two or three
degrees down
here.



Brrr...
it's
cold.



The fact that there
are no fish in this
tunnel proves it...
It's too cold for
them here.



It's...!



Huh...
What's
that!?





They're completely pre-served...



But... these girls were drowned two thousand years ago...



So these are the real "Wandering Beauties," huh!?



Plus, there aren't any fish to eat the bodies.

I see. In this cold water, the bodies were able to retain their form for thousands of years without rotting.

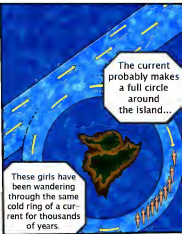


But where exactly will the current take them...?

They were moving along with the current. That's why we couldn't get an exact location on them.



It's too cold
down here...
let's go back
to the boat
for now.

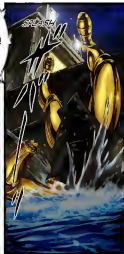


The current
probably makes
a full circle
around
the island...

These girls have
been wandering
through the same
cold ring of a cur-
rent for thousands
of years.









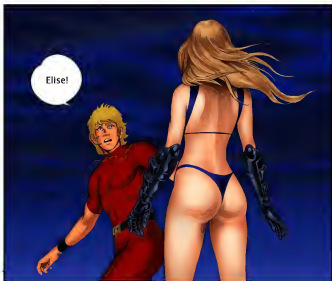
Heh heh
heh...
That's
right...



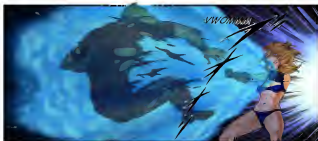
Right,
you had one
more guy.
Are you
the Boss?

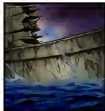


You at least
have the re-
spect to show
me your face
before you
kill me,
right?



Elise!



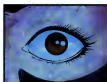


They're im- beciles!



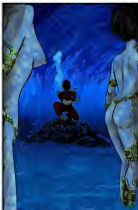


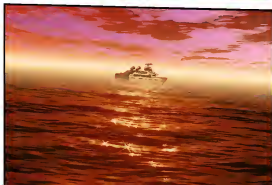
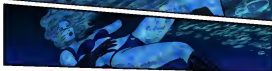
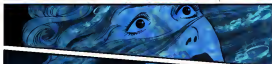
Oho ho ho ho.
Such beautiful
jewels! Such fine
craftsmanship
...



Wah
hah hah.
All mine!
Hah hah
hah...

Oho ho
ho ho...
These all
belong
to me.

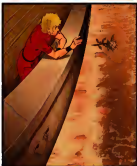




Men are all
connected
in circles...



Like she said...



...and women
not forever...



...a
mystery

...



COBRA: Legend of Mandrad

Author
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